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VOLUME II

State of Maine
Preliminary Report
on
State Park
and
Related Recreational Planning



Reid State Park

Maine State Park Commission
January 1952

To His Excellency, the Governor, and the Honorable Council:

The State Park Commission, pursuant to Paragraph 2, Section 23, Chapter 32 of the Revised Statutes of 1944, submits herewith a Preliminary Report on State Park and Related Recreational Planning.

STATE PARK COMMISSION

Faust Couture, Chairman

William Raye

Ivan A. Trueworthy

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FOREWORD

This report of State Park and Recreational Planning is based on A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE MAINE PARK, PARKWAY AND RECREATIONAL-AREA STUDY, a State Unit in the National Parkway and Recreational Area Study prepared in March, 1940 by the State Park Commission in cooperation with the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior with the assistance of the Federal Works Agency, Work Projects Administration.

This report represents a revision of the aforementioned study and deals with: (1) the existing recreational resources of the State; (2) an evaluation of the present recreational facilities; and (3) suggests a short term plan for the formation of a State Park System which will serve the recreational needs of Maine people.

STATE PARK AND RELATED RECREATIONAL PLANNING

In the Pioneer Days when livings were wrought from the forests and the seas and there were no centers of population, recreation was obtained from and intermingled with daily tasks. Because those people had the entire Maine wilderness and coastline without the now prevalent "No Trespassing" signs, there existed no need for setting aside publicly-owned lands for recreation. Environmental conditions are different today. The more unnatural and artificial man's working and living conditions become, the greater the need for relaxation which comes from the green woods, blue waters and skies of nature. More and more, man is turning to the out-of-doors for recreation as evidenced by the growing demand for, and increasing use of, State Parks and related recreational areas.

PLANNING FACTORS

Maine's environmental factors are a definite asset in the planning of recreational areas and facilities. Maine has been exceptionally fortunate in being richly endowed by nature with the necessary recreation resources; large wooded areas studded with clear blue lakes and a rolling terrain, a long varied coastline, a stimulating climate and a wealth of flora and fauna. In these surroundings, man may absorb fresh air, rest, mental and physical restoration.

The task in Maine is not a problem of finding recreational areas, but the selection and acquisition of suitable areas which should be included in the State's recreational plan. However, the problem of acquisition is made very difficult by the early and steady growth of private ownership. The provision of recreational areas and facilities by the State or any of its municipalities rests not only on their desire for the same but primarily on their financial ability to acquire, develop and adequately maintain such recreational areas for maximum public use.

Population Characteristics

The federal census gives Maine's population third position as to the number of inhabitants of the New England States. In view of the fact that this State covers nearly fifty per cent of the New England area, it is evident that there are vast unpopulated areas. The bulk of the population (about 50%) is distributed along three major rivers of the southern region of the state, namely, the Saco, the Androscoggin and the Kennebec. Minor concentrations are found along the mouth of the Penobscot River and in the northeastern part of the state. Sixty per cent

of the population of Maine is rural,—this percentage includes the rural non-farming class which is construed as being those people who live outside of the incorporated places of 2500 inhabitants or less, who do not earn a livelihood on farms. The other forty per cent is urban.

Factors influencing the shifting or migrating of groups of inhabitants are due to the effects of industries, such as agriculture, lumbering, sea fishing, textiles, shipbuilding, etc. Fishing off the coast was an early inducement to the inhabitants of the coastal areas, but as a result of changes due to various economic factors, there is comparatively little of the old-time fishing done. Consequently, many people occupied by that means of livelihood have left the small fishing hamlets. However, seasonal attractions have brought an influx of temporary inhabitants. Summer visitors and tourists have so increased in numbers as to nearly maintain the original population of many of the coastal towns. In some cases, the towns have become recreational centers, with an even larger temporary population. Population distribution therefore becomes one of Maine's important problems in recreational planning.

Social and Economic Aspects of Recreation

In all sections of the country where definite recreational programs are sponsored, there is improvement in health and delinquency conditions. Of great importance to the social life of the State is foresighted planning for use of the vastly increasing amount of leisure at the disposal of the public. This leisure is rapidly increasing, due to the continued development of labor-saving devices and scientific management of industry. This leisure can be made of value in raising the physical, cultural and spiritual level of the people if proper provision is made for its use and if it is guided into proper channels. Failure to provide for the proper use of the increasing hours of leisure creates a **fertile field for the propagation of every anti-social influence.**

One of the greatest needs for State Parks and recreational facilities is for sites that will care for the needs of the urban dwellers. This fact is due to the congested and unnatural environment in which they live. The large percentage of rural people should also be provided with opportunities for participation in social types of outdoor recreational activities. In planning and development of the areas and facilities priority should go to those which meet mass needs. Most of the coastal sections of the State have great natural recreational resources and those nearer to the centers of population should be given careful study.

From the beginning, the development of recreational facilities has been of definite economic benefit to the residents of the State. The trend of the recreation business in Maine has been steadily upward until, today,

it is one of the leading industries. In 1950 the value of recreational industry was placed at \$125,000,000. Many of the coastal towns derive over fifty percent of their taxes from recreational property owners (mostly out-of-state).

Public recreational facilities do not compete with the facilities provided by private capital, but rather augment these and provide a well rounded out and complete tourist service. Many people may be expected to come to Maine for the activities offered by State Parks while their overnight needs may be met in many cases by private venture.

Recreational Interests of People

The National Park Service in cooperation with Federal, State, County and Municipal park authorities conducted park use studies throughout the country, and a tabulation of 136 areas on a nation-wide basis indicates that the following forms of outdoor recreational activities were the most popular in their order of importance: touring and sightseeing, picnicking, swimming, hiking, sports and games, camping, fishing, nature study, boating and horseback riding.¹ An analysis of the statistics obtained in these studies, in addition to observations by Park authorities, show that people come to a park generally for an outing. The majority of the Park patrons comprise family units, although large groups from organizations or agencies, as well as individuals, are included in the membership of park patrons. State Parks and related recreational areas offer situations natural to outdoor groups for the participation in their diversified recreation interests.

Based upon such studies it is possible to make recreational forecasts and to plan recreational facilities and programs to meet the recreational interests of park visitors. Building around the major natural resources of the individual parks and recreational areas, a well rounded program for Maine can be developed to meet effectively and adequately the recreational requirements of its people.

Factors Limiting Participation in Recreation

In the planning of recreational areas and facilities, cognizance must be taken of certain factors which limit the public's participation in recreation. The available income of park patrons is a prime limiting factor. Their participation in recreational activities will be reflected in a good measure by the amount of available funds remaining after necessary living expenses are paid. Therefore, recreational areas and facilities should be provided at an accessible range and any fees or charges levied for special facilities should be at a very nominal cost.

¹ A Study of the Park and Recreation Problem of the United States, National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, Washington, 1941, P. 10-20.

The amount of available leisure time determines the participation in recreation activities. It is a known fact that urban industrial dwellers have shorter working hours than do farmers and consequently have more leisure hours for recreation. It, thus, may be said that adequate recreational opportunities should be planned for the various leisure periods and within accessible distances of these people. Maine's recreational planning should also recognize the needs of its estimated 1,000,000 seasonal visitors.

Travel habits of people have a decided bearing on participation in recreation activities. Results of the Highway Planning surveys² indicate that recreation travel constitutes the major use of highways today. It has been suggested that people travel the following approximate distances seeking recreational opportunities during their leisure periods:

- A. Up to 15 miles for daily recreation.
- B. From 15 to 25 miles for Sunday or holiday recreation.
- C. From 25 to 50 miles for week-end (Saturday and Sunday) recreation.
- D. From 100 to 500 miles for vacation recreation.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

If people are to participate in the types of recreational activities which they desire, recreation planning must consider the use of the natural recreational resources in the State. In addition to a suitable climate for year-round recreation, Maine is fortunate to have available adequate physical resources as water, forests, mountains and wildlife, moreover a wealth of scenic, historic and scientific sites. These potential assets are suitable for all types of recreational areas as parks, forests, monuments, waysides and trailways.

Climate

Maine's climatic conditions represent a definite valuable resource, allowing the participation in recreation activities on a year round basis, and its geographic position makes it favorable for the planning of winter sports areas and facilities.

Precipitation varies throughout Maine, the mean annual for most stations being 35 to 45 inches. Coastal regions show less during the summer months while the least amount is along the eastern border as indicated by the records at Van Buren, Presque Isle, and Houlton.

The average daily maximum temperature on the Maine coast and on the Maine lakes is generally lower in summer than in other sections of

² Ibid. p. 10-20.

the country with similar latitudes; while the daily minimum temperatures are the same. The July mean temperature in the northern, southern and northwestern states, ranges from 80 to 90 degrees, while the prevailing 70's are found during the same period, almost anywhere in Maine.

In the southern part of the State, there is usually an intermittent snow cover for at least three months, beginning in December. In other elevated and wooded sections of the northern half of the State, the snowfall is generally heavier and sometimes lasts until the middle of April.

Water

Maine is one of the few states in the country having an abundance of water resources around which an adequate State-wide recreation program can be planned.

The State has approximately 2500 lakes ranging in size from Moosehead Lake (35 miles in length and from 2 to 10 miles in width) to thousands of lesser known ponds. In addition, Maine has about 5100 rivers and streams. The five (5) major rivers are: Penobscot, 350 miles; St. John, 211 miles; Androscoggin, 175 miles; Kennebec, 150 miles; and the Saco River, 104 miles.

Maine has ten (10) of its sixteen (16) counties available to salt water traffic. Although Maine's seacoast is 278 miles in length, its tidal frontage extends to 2,486 miles. Many fine sandy ocean beaches are found south of Cape Elizabeth, while north of this point, the coastline is generally more rugged. The proximity of the residents of the State of Maine's expansive stretch of seashore warrants the consideration of including seashore areas in the public recreational area systems.

Forests

The vast areas of forest lands comprise a very valuable potential resource in planning recreational areas for the State. Forests constitute eighty-four (84) per cent of the total land area of the State. In all counties forest land predominates. Approximately one-half of Maine consists of unorganized townships and organized plantations containing about 10,000,000 acres. This area, frequently referred to as the "wildlands," embraces one-quarter of the entire area of New England. These lands consist generally of large continuous blocks in private ownership largely for the production of timber. About ninety-nine (99) percent of the forest land area of Maine is privately owned.

The scenic attraction of Maine's forests is an important factor influencing the annual influx of tourists and vacationists. The fish and game harbored by Maine forest areas draw a small army of sportsmen

to this state. Other benefits, frequently overlooked, are obtained from forest cover, as the equalization of stream flow and the prevention of excessive soil erosion.

Mountains

Mountains have always been an asset recreationally, but with the present rapid increase in interest and enthusiasm in winter sports their recreational value will increase.

Maine's mountains, a heritage from the great ice sheet, rise through the plateau region in varying heights—Mt. Katahdin is the highest, with an elevation of 5,267 feet above sea level. From a base on the shores of the Penobscot River (600 feet above sea level) Mt. Katahdin appears as high as some of the Rockies. Cadillac Mountain in the Acadia National Park has an almost sheer rise of 1,532 feet—the highest elevation of any point on the Atlantic Ocean north of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

The second and third highest are Sugarloaf in Crockertown, 4,237 feet and "Old Spec" in Grafton Township, 4,180 feet. Six other mountains are more than 4,000 feet in elevation: Crocker, Bigelow, North Brother, Saddleback, Abraham, and "The Horn," and there are ninety-seven (97) mountains greater than 3,000 feet in height.

Fauna and Flora

Classified as Canadian life zone in the north and east and transition life zone in the southern positions of the state, the flora ranges from the spruce forests of northern Maine to pine and oak in the southern part. Hunter, fisherman, and vacationer alike have enjoyed Maine's abundance of forest creatures—deer, moose, bear, fox, raccoon, beaver, rabbit, on down to the lowly skunk. Of the three hundred and thirty-nine (339) known species of birds within the State, thirty (30) are permanent residents. The principal game birds include Canadian ruffed grouse, black duck, Canadian goose and woodcock.

Species of game fish include landlocked salmon and the sea-run Atlantic salmon, the name of the former (*Salmo Sebago*) having been derived from Sebago Lake in Maine where this famous specie was discovered, with Eastern Brook Trout, lake trout or togue, bass, pickerel, perch and smelts as Maine's complement of principal species.

An increasing number of anglers seek Maine's salt water game fish for Rod and Reel, particularly Tuna (Horse mackerel), mackerel, striped bass, and shad. "Handlining" for cod, pollack, haddock, and halibut has been for many years a recreation enjoyed by native and summer

resident alike. The State is also known for its shellfish—clams, scallops and lobsters.

Scenic Sites

Mt. Katahdin, the highest mountain in Maine, with its summit 5,267 feet above sea level, situated in 141,712 acre Baxter State Park, is the dominating feature of this park and surrounding country. It is estimated that the view encompasses 1,200 of Maine's lakes, streams, and mountains, making this area one of the outstanding scenic sites east of the Rockies. Mt. Cadillac, in Acadia National Park, 1,532 feet in height, topped by a highway, overlooks an outstanding seacoast region. Other scenic mountainous areas of note are located at Weld, Eustis, Fryeburg, and Bethel.

Outstanding scenic lake regions include Moosehead Lake, the largest in the state, and the Rangeley, Belgrade and Sebago Lakes. Among seacoast areas the Boothbay, Frenchman's Bay, Casco Bay and Penobscot Bay regions are outstanding because of their wooded islands, irregular coast and beautiful seascapes.

Scientific Sites

Although red ochre in graves of ancient peoples is not unusual, the artifacts and graves of these red paint inhabitants of Maine intrigue the imagination. Perhaps antedating the Algonquin mementos found in the many shell heaps along the coast, the lost legends associated with these people may some day be brought to light.

Indian relics are not uncommonly found in the "kitchen middens" of shells, particularly about such places as Pemaquid, Gouldsboro, and the islands of Casco Bay.

Maine's geologic resources are too varied for a discussion in this report. In small quantities iron, silver, lead, aluminum, granite, feldspar, limestone and slate are among the many found. Minerals in the nature of precious stones at Apatite Mountain and Newry, gold at Swift River, giant whirlpools in the Bay of Fundy, offer recreation and study for the amateur scientist.

Historical Sites

Maine's history begins with the first known settlement on Dochet Island in 1604. For 346 years, since its first settlement by the white man and through a succession of Colonial Wars, Maine has built its industries and has molded that character referred to as the "rugged individualist." This personage left mementos for the youth of today and tomorrow in the form of Forts and Fort sites, famous houses and birthplaces honored

by the outstanding men of literature, arts and science which they once housed.

Inspired by the fact that an interesting part of the early history of this nation was enacted in Maine, former Governor Percival P. Baxter in 1924, induced the Executive Council to purchase from the Federal Government some of the celebrated old forts and fort sites in the State in order to preserve them for the future generations. Through this purchase, seven forts of historic interest were acquired, namely—Fort Machias, Machiasport; Fort Knox, Prospect; Fort Edgecomb, Edgecomb; Fort Popham, Phippsburg; Fort Baldwin, Phippsburg; Fort St. George's, St. George; and Fort McClary, Kittery. In addition to these, Fort Pemaquid in Bristol was previously acquired by gift. These historic forts are maintained by the State Park Commission.

Historic sites and buildings are valuable as educational, social and economic assets which the State should preserve for public use. Many of the old historic homes are under the control of private individuals and historic organizations, and are open to the public at a small fee or by permission of present owners.

The preservation of outstanding scenic, scientific, and historic areas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations has been an acknowledged public responsibility.

RESOURCES DEVELOPED FOR RECREATION (EXISTING SITUATION)

Included in Maine's recreational-area systems are approximately 284,829 acres of land set aside for public use and recreational purposes. These lands are owned and administered by different federal, state, municipal and semi-public agencies. The above indicated acreage does not include the vast undetermined amount of privately owned recreational areas and facilities such as organized camps, fishing and hunting camps, private beaches, summer homes, hotels and many others.

The table following offers a summary of public lands available for recreational use in the State, indicating type of ownership and agencies administering the areas. The statistics indicated in this table are self-explanatory. However, attention is directed to the following salient facts:

1. Total public lands available for recreational use in Maine amount to slightly over one (1.4) per cent of the total land areas of the state.

2. Federally owned lands represent thirty-nine (39.4) per cent of the total lands available for recreation, while state-owned areas amount to sixty (60.2) per cent.
3. Baxter State Park is the largest single recreational area in Maine.
4. There are 256 State Forestry Department picnic sites and campgrounds leased from private land owners for public use.

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MAINE
AVAILABLE FOR RECREATIONAL USE
 Indicating Ownership and Administration

	No. of Areas	Total Acreage of Rec. Lands	P.C. of Recrea. Lands	P.C. of Total State Land Area
FEDERAL OWNED	13	112,246	39.4	—
National Park Service	3	27,860	9.8	—
National Forest Service	2	48,368	17.0	—
Fish and Wildlife Service (1)	2	17,980	6.3	—
Soil Conservation Service (2)	6	18,038	6.3	—
STATE OWNED	32	171,674	60.2	—
State Park Commission (3)	19	6,902	2.4	—
Baxter State Park Authority	1	141,712	49.8	—
Supt. of Public Buildings	1	20	Tr.	—
Dept. of Health & Welfare (4)	1	17,000	5.9	—
University of Maine (5)	1	—	—	—
Forestry Department (6)	1	20	Tr.	—
Dept. Inland Fisheries & Game (7)	8	6,020	2.1	—
MUNICIPAL OWNED	85	899	0.3	—
SEMI-PUBLIC OWNED	1	10	Tr.	—
GRAND TOTAL		284,829	99.9	1.4

(1) Also administer 1 Soil Conservation Service Area—with limited recreation.

(2) Do not administer any lands.

(3) Administer 4 Soil Conservation Service Areas.

(4) An Indian Reservation with very limited recreation.

(5) Administer 1 Soil Conservation Service Area with limited recreation.

(6) Does not include 256 picnic sites and campgrounds and the numerous school lots owned or administered by the Forestry Department.

(7) Game Management areas.

RECREATIONAL AREAS IN THE STATE OF MAINE

A brief description of each of the recreational areas in the State is presented in the following pages.

A. *Federal Recreational Lands (total acreage 112,246 acres)*

1. *National Park Service (total acreage 27,860 acres)*

a. *Acadia National Park*

Sieur de Monts National Monument was established in July, 1916. This area established by outright gift to the government by a small group of public-spirited men was the first National Park east of the Mississippi and is the only National Park in New England. It was created Lafayette National Park by Act of Congress approved February 26, 1919. Its name became Acadia by Act of Congress approved January 19, 1929.

Situated on Mount Desert Island this park, comprising 16,522 acres, is ideally accessible by automobile, bus, railroad, boat, or air. The park includes Mt. Cadillac, 1,532 feet in height and topped by a highway, which overlooks an outstanding seacoast region. Campgrounds are available at Black Woods and at Seawall accommodating six hundred (600) persons, with tenting space for one hundred (100) persons; auto space for eighty-five (85) cars, and parking space for fifteen (15) trailers. There are also picnic grounds with accommodations for one hundred (100) cars. In the park area there is a museum containing a collection of Indian Artifacts, and an amphitheater, foot trails, bridle paths, scenic drives, truck trails, ski trails, bathhouses, and a recreational building. There are many facilities available for nature study, picnics, cycling, hiking, horse-back riding, boating, swimming, fishing, skating, skiing, coasting, golf, scenic observation, etc. Over 500,000 persons visited this park during 1950.

b. *Schoodic Point, Acadia National Park*

Established as the Acadia Recreation Demonstration Area, covering an area of 5,652 acres on Schoodic Point in Hancock County, it was opened to the public in the summer of 1937. There are three (3) picnic grounds with parking space for autos, twenty (20) foot trails and four (4) truck trails.

2. *National Forest Service (total acreage 48,368 acres)*

a. *White Mountain National Forest*

The acreage of White Mountain National Forest in Maine, comprising 45,368 acres, is located in Oxford County, and is administered by the U. S. Forest Service. This area was opened to the public in 1918 and the annual attendance is now over 102,000. Facilities are available for nature study, picnics, camping, hiking, fishing, skiing, hunting, sight-seeing, etc. Comparatively little acreage has

been developed for recreation in the Maine section of the forest. The Gilead Forest Camp on Highway Route 2 consists of a small picnic area and campground with ten (10) sites available.

In Evans Notch, several precipitous rock faces exist in which several figures are to be seen. One of these is named "The Laughing Lion." Six lakes of varying size exist within the purchase boundaries. The Evans Notch Road, between North Chatham, New Hampshire and Gilead, Maine, with its rock figures and magnificent panoramic view to the south is a noteworthy feature. Speckled Mountain, 2877 feet, and Caribou Mountain, 2828 feet, are within borders of the forest.

b. *Massabesic Experimental Forest*

Situated in Alfred, York County, the Massabesic, an area of about 3,000 acres is the only experimental forest in Maine. The forest was established as a field laboratory for the investigation and development of improved methods of managing white pine and to serve as a unit for demonstrating desirable forest practices. Although possessing no present recreational developments, it does have some potential recreation value.

3. *Fish and Wildlife Service (total acreage 17,980 acres)*

a. *Moosehorn Migratory Bird Refuge (17,968 acres) Washington County*

b. *Widow's Island Migratory Bird Refuge (12 acres) Knox County*

The Fish and Wildlife Service administers the above-mentioned bird refuges. There is no recreational development on either of these areas, and it is the endeavor of the Bureau to keep recreational use of refuge lands to a minimum because, by its very nature, it interferes with the wildlife use. These areas are of tremendous importance to persons interested in nature recreation.

c. *Edmunds Area (5,871 acres) Washington County*

This area, developed by the Soil Conservation Service, has been turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service for administration. The major part of this 5,871 acre area is used as a wildlife reservation. However, two (2) picnic grounds totaling fifty (50) acres were developed on a peninsula extending into Cobscook Bay, fifteen (15) fireplaces, thirty (30) tables, seven (7) shelters, a water system, latrines, parking area, and foot trails have been constructed. The peninsula is a beautiful spot with a small rocky hill in the center from which a marvelous view at high tide is available. At low

tide there is opportunity for digging clams and exploring the beach. At this point, the tide rises and falls eighteen (18) feet. The site is bisected by U. S. Highway No. 1 and serves as a major recreational area for the communities of Eastport, Machias, Calais, and neighboring villages in the northeastern part of the state.

4. *Soil Conservation Service (total acreage 18,038 acres)*

Land Utilization projects started in 1934 under the FERA Land Program were subsequently transferred to the Resettlement Administration, the Farm Security Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. The six (6) areas acquired and developed in Maine are indicated below. In 1939, the Soil Conservation Service completed its development activities and these areas were turned over to the following agencies for administration.

Mt. Blue Area	(leased to State Park Commission)
Lake St. George Area	(leased to State Park Commission)
Bradbury Mt. Area	(leased to State Park Commission)
Sebago Lake Area	(leased to State Park Commission)
Old Town Forest Area	(leased to University of Maine)
Edmunds Area	(transferred to Fish and Wildlife Service)

B. *State Recreational Lands (total acreage 178,746 acres)*

The discussion of State Recreational lands will center around lands owned by or leased to the State to be administered for recreational purposes. The State Park Commission is the primary State agency administering recreational areas, although there are other State agencies or commissions concerned with the administration of such lands. A description of the activities of all State agencies concerned with public recreation is presented below.

1. *State Park Commission (administers 10,182 acres)*

Prior to 1935, Maine had only one State Park, namely, Baxter State Park, under the administration of a special commission, plus a few historic areas. The 1935 Legislature passed an act creating a State Park Commission, to have jurisdiction of all State Parks (excepting Baxter State Park) and all Memorials and national park areas which are under the jurisdiction and management of the State. The State Park Commission was established primarily for the purpose of setting up an agency to operate, maintain and administer the recreational lands purchased and developed by federal agencies during the emergency program.

In its first four years of existence the State Park Commission functioned, principally, as the State agency cooperating and coor-

minating its activities with the various federal agencies in their development of recreational areas, since leased to the State.

On September 20, 1938, the Aroostook County State Park was deeded to the State. This became the first area to be put under the administration of the State Park Commission. The Commission cooperated with the City of Presque Isle in obtaining a WPA project for the development of skiing facilities which were used during the 1938-39 winter season.

On May 9th, 1939, the Secretary of Agriculture signed "The Co-operative License and Agreement" thus making available to the citizens of Maine the four areas purchased and developed as recreational areas by the Land Utilization Program of the Soil Conservation Service. These areas are administered by the State Park Commission for three (3) concurrent uses; namely, recreation, forestry, and wildlife. The U. S. Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture is now the Custodial Agency. These areas formed the important nucleus around which Maine's present State Park System was patterned. It will be noted that although these holdings are referred to as State Parks, due recognition is given to the co-operating federal agencies.

The State also owns a few acres primarily of historical interest which were purchased from the United States Government in 1924 with the provision that they were to be used for public park purposes only. To date, the State Park Commission administers ten (10) State Parks and thirteen (13) Memorials.

a. Aroostook State Park

Located six miles south of Presque Isle, it contains 520 acres featuring the Quoggy Joe Mountains and shore frontage on Echo Lake. From the mountain summits there is a grand panorama of the great Aroostook potato empire, with Mount Katahdin 65 miles to the southwest and Canada to the east. The area was donated by the Merchants Association of Presque Isle in 1938. Public use is now at the level of 10,510. Present facilities consisting of three (3) toilets of six (6) units, twenty-seven (27) picnic tables, eleven (11) fireplaces, two (2) overnight camp sites, bathing beach, seven hundred (700) foot rope ski tow and ski trail. It is difficult to correlate the high level of public use in view of the limited amount of facilities available for recreation. The area provides important outdoor recreation for Aroostook County residents and visitors from the Province of New Brunswick. It should be fully developed to permit the proper use of the area.

b. Bradbury Mt. State Park

Situated one-half mile north of Pownal Center it contains 242 acres featuring Bradbury Mountain from which a beautiful view of Casco Bay, the surrounding countryside and the White Mountains can be obtained. There is a well preserved cattle pound, probably built in the 18th century, and abandoned feldspar quarries of interest to geologists. The area is leased from the United States Department of Agriculture. Present public use is now at a level of 8,633 and present facilities consisting of two (2) toilets of two (2) units each, thirty-five (35) picnic tables, seventeen (17) fireplaces and nine (9) overnight campsites and one (1) ski tow. This park is strategically located to approximately 229,300 people within a 50-mile zone, but the area lacks the attractive feature of water. Since natural lakes and ponds do not exist in the eastern part of Cumberland County it is of considerable importance that the water resources of this area be developed to feature swimming, along with the development of suitable picnic areas and a large campground to provide sufficient sites for tent and trailer camping, this park will be of considerably more value to the residents of Maine in the future than it is today.

c. Camden Hills State Park

Located in Camden and Lincolnville on the Atlantic Coast it contains 4,962 acres featuring the scenic Camden Hills and shore frontage on Penobscot Bay. This area was acquired and developed by the National Park Service as a recreational demonstration area and was given to the State in 1948 for use as a public park. Public use is now at a level of 24,929 with present facilities consisting of thirty-two (32) toilet units, sixty-two (62) picnic tables with forty-four (44) fireplaces, thirteen (13) overnight campsites, twenty-five (25) miles of foot trails, and ski trails. In addition to these recreational facilities there is an organized camp in the Duck Trap area utilized by the Bangor YWCA as a summer camp with a capacity of one hundred (100), and the CCC Barracks in the Sagamore area which are utilized by the Camden Hills Theatre as quarters with a capacity of eighty (80). Within a fifty-mile zone of this park there are 171,200 people and its location on U. S. Highway Route 1 provides for extensive recreational use by non-residents. Considerable additional development is necessary to utilize the full possibilities of this area, particularly in connection with space and facilities for tent and trailer camping.

d. Fort Knox State Park

Situated one-fourth mile above the prize-winning Waldo-Hancock Bridge over the Penobscot River it contains one hundred twenty-four (124) acres featuring Fort Knox built in 1846. This area was purchased by the State from the Federal Government as a Memorial in 1924 at a cost of \$2,121. Public use is now at a level of 30,691 with occasional use levels of 1,000 visitors a day. Present facilities consist of five (5) toilet units, twenty-four (24) picnic tables with eleven (11) fireplaces. From the public use standpoint, Fort Knox ranks third to Sebago Lake State Park and is rapidly approaching the maximum use level that the area can stand without destroying important values.

e. Lake St. George State Park

Located in Liberty and Montville, this area contains 5,311 acres and features shore frontage on Lake St. George. The Park is divided into two tracts—the largest section in Montville which includes Frye Mountain and Spear Mountain, each with an elevation of 1,050 feet and a smaller area at Liberty bordering Lake St. George. The areas are leased from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Public use is now at a level of 12,371 with existing facilities consisting of ten (10) toilet units, fifty-one (51) picnic tables and twenty-five (25) fireplaces and twenty-five (25) campsites and one (1) ski tow. Within a fifty-mile radius there are 173,300 people. Being situated on State Highway No. 3 the area is of considerable importance to non-residents. At the present time the State Highway skirts the lake shore and severely limits the amount of space available for recreation. Highway relocation surveys indicate that considerable shore frontage will be available for development in the future. At such a time as this frontage is developed for recreation this area will become one of the major attractions of the State Park system. The extensive Frye Mountain tract has no value for intensive recreational use and is best suited for forest and game management purposes.

f. Lamoine State Park

Located at Lamoine it consists of fifty-five (55) acres featuring shore property on Frenchman's Bay. The area features an outstanding view of scenic Mount Desert Island. It was transferred from the University of Maine with a development fund of \$27,000 in 1949. Considering the location of Lamoine State Park in connection with Acadia National Park and resident population within a

fifty-mile radius it is readily evident that this area is not suitable for development as a State Park.

g. Mt. Blue State Park

Situated in Weld and Avon this area consists of 4,921 acres featuring Mount Blue, outstanding mountain scenery, and shore frontage on Webb Lake. This area is leased from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Public use is now at a level of 7,892 and present facilities consist of fifteen (15) toilet units, sixty (60) picnic tables with thirty-eight (38) fireplaces and fourteen (14) campsites. This Park is highly rated for its scenic value and is potentially one of the better ski areas of the State. There are 67,400 people living within a fifty-mile radius of the area, and the Park is more important as a vacation area than a day-use area. In order that this park may be used in the fullest possible manner it is essential that there be considerable development of overnight camping. Particular consideration should be given to the recreational development of the Mount Blue area for skiing and camping as well as full development of the facilities at the Webb Beach area.

h. Reid State Park

Situated in Georgetown on the Atlantic coast it consists of 785 acres of seashore, featuring Mile Beach and Half Mile Beach donated to the State by Walter E. Reid in 1946. This Park is under development at the present time. As a result of the present limited development of recreational facilities, public use is now at a level of 42,856 with week-end use often surpassing 2,500 daily. The area now ranks second to Sebago Lake State Park. It is the only public seashore area in Maine and it is anticipated that it will receive an extremely high level of use with full development of recreational facilities. There are 243,500 people residing within a fifty-mile zone of the area. A warm water bathing pool has been developed in connection with road construction and there are eight (8) toilet units, one hundred (100) picnic tables, fifty (50) fireplaces and temporary campsites. Since this park will serve a large segment of the State's population and particularly in view of its importance as a seashore area, its full development should proceed as rapidly as possible. It is anticipated that this area will be equal in importance to Sebago Lake State Park as a recreational area.

i. Salmon Falls State Park

Located in Hollis on the east branch of the Saco River it consists of eighty (80) acres given to the State by the Appalachian Mt.

Club in 1946. The public use area and the spectacular gorge of the Saco River have been flooded for hydro power. This park is close to large population centers and it should have considerable value for development in the future as a recreational area, particularly in view of the fact that the flowage fluctuation affecting the shore line is practically negligible. At such time as Sebago Lake State Park reaches its maximum capacity for public use, this area will, undoubtedly, serve as an important recreational area of the State Park system.

j. Sebago Lake State Park

Situated in Naples and Casco on both sides of the mouth of the Songo River it consists of 1,296 acres and features beautiful sandy beaches on the shore of Maine's second largest lake. This area is leased from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Public use on the area is now at the annual level of 110,614. Week-end use of the picnic area often surpasses 5,000 daily and overnight use occasionally reaches 1,000. Present facilities consist of seventy-two (72) toilet units, three hundred sixty-four (364) picnic tables with eighty-eight (88) fireplaces and one hundred seventy-two (172) campsites. The day use of the Songo Beach area is rapidly approaching the limits of maximum use. However, the overnight camping area at Naples Beach is well suited to considerable further development, particularly the Witch Cove Beach section. This park is the most important area of the State Park system, providing recreation for approximately one-half of the total public use of all areas. Since it is rapidly approaching the limits of maximum use it will be necessary in the near future to provide State Parks in such locations as to relieve the pressure on the Sebago Lake area in providing additional recreation for the people of Maine.

k. Battery Gosselin Memorial

Located in Castine, it was bequeathed to the State Park Commission in 1950 under the will of Miss Amy Witherlee. The area is not of sufficient significance to warrant development at the present time, but will undoubtedly prove to be of considerable value in the consideration of the other historical fortifications in the Castine area.

l. Fort Baldwin Memorial

Located at Sabino Hill, Popham Beach, Phippsburg, it consists of 45 acres purchased from the Federal Government for \$5,000 in 1924. This area features the fortifications erected during World

War I for defense of the confluence of the Kennebec River. Since this area is adjacent to the site of the Popham Colony and is near Fort Popham Memorial, it will be of more value to future generations than at the present time. Other than casual maintenance, preserving the features that already exist, no development is contemplated.

m. Fort Edgecomb Memorial

Located on Fort Point, Davis Island, North Edgecomb and containing 3.15 acres, it was purchased from the Federal Government for \$501.00 in 1923. This area features an octagonal wooden blockhouse which was fortified during the War of 1812. Public use is at an annual level of 7,285 and present facilities consist of two (2) toilet units, twenty-six (26) picnic tables, and ten (10) fireplaces. This Memorial has proved to be a popular area and future development should consider, particularly, space for parking cars. It is also important that the fortifications be maintained in as near as possible their original condition.

n. Fort George Memorial

Located in Castine on a hill overlooking the harbor it was bequeathed to the State Park Commission in 1950 under the will of Miss Amy Witherlee. The area has considerable historical significance having been under the flag of four nations, and it is the burial site of British officers and seamen. The town of Castine maintains this property under a revocable license.

o. Fort Machias Memorial

Located at Machiasport it consists of two acres purchased from the Federal Government for \$400.00 in 1923. Locally known as Fort O'Brien it became part of the nation's defense when Washington ordered the protection of Machiasport. Near this fort the British schooner, "Margaretta," was captured in one of the earliest Naval engagements of the Revolution, often referred to as the "Lexington of the Seas." This area should be preserved as an historical site and kept attractive by casual maintenance.

p. Fort McClary Memorial

Situated on Kittery Point it contains 27.5 acres purchased from the Federal Government for \$3,100 in 1924. The area features a hexagonal blockhouse built in 1840 and several earlier fortifications erected on the site. An area adjacent to the fortifications is utilized principally by the town of Kittery as a playground and picnic area. Public use is estimated to be 2,000 and present facili-

ties consist of two (2) toilets, bathhouse, eighteen (18) picnic tables with two (2) fireplaces. This historical portion of this Memorial, the blockhouse and fortifications, should be maintained by the State Park Commission. The picnic area which is separated from the above mentioned fort by a highway is most suitable for use as a municipal park. Consideration should be given to a revocable license to the town of Kittery for the maintenance of the same.

q. Fort Popham Memorial

Situated at Popham Beach, Phippsburg, it contains 6.6 acres purchased from the Federal Government for \$6,600.00 in 1924. This area features a granite fort constructed in 1861 but never completed. Public use is now at an annual level of 8,318, and present facilities consist of one (1) toilet unit, ten (10) picnic tables and five (5) fireplaces. This Memorial is situated in an area of rich historical background and is receiving steadily increasing patronage. Particular consideration should be given to the possibilities of establishing a museum featuring objects significant to the periods of historical interest. Provisions should be made to improve the approach road and to provide additional parking and picnicking facilities.

r. Fort St. George's Memorial

Located in St. George it contains 2.6 acres purchased from the Federal Government in 1923 for \$22.50. The area is a site for a Fort built in 1719 and reconstructed in 1809 and there remains, at the present, only the breastwork and foundations of the most recent fortifications. The area is of little significance at the present time; however, it should be casually maintained in a neat and presentable condition.

s. Fort William Henry Memorial

Located at Pemaquid Beach, Bristol, it contains one acre, a gift of the Pemaquid Memorial Association in 1900. The area features a replica of Fort William Henry which stood from 1692 to 1696. Public use is now at a level of 7,901 and present facilities consist of a round stone tower within which is a display of old relics, portraits, maps and copies of Indian deeds. From the roof of the Fort there are outstanding views of the Pemaquid coastal region. This Memorial is very popular and should receive sufficient maintenance to preserve its features and attractive appeal.

t. John Paul Jones Memorial

Located on the East Branch of the Piscataqua River where the U. S. Highway Route 1 enters Maine at Kittery, it contains 1.7

acres. This area is maintained by the State Park Commission with the cooperation of the town of Kittery. For all practical purposes and intent the area is a municipal park that should be maintained by the town of Kittery under a revocable license.

u. Mere Point Memorial

Located at Mere Point, Brunswick, it contains $\frac{1}{4}$ acre. It is the point where the U. S. Army round-the-world flight made their first landing in 1924. A Memorial marks the landing place. The area should receive casual maintenance to keep it clean and presentable. No facilities are available.

v. Vaughan Woods Memorial

Located in South Berwick and containing 250 acres which was bequeathed to the State Park Commission under the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughan in 1950 with \$35,000 for its care and development. Situated on the east bank of the Salmon Falls River it consists primarily of an extensive stand of white pine. Until such time as the recreational needs of the region warrant the development of this area, it will be preserved in its natural wild state with only the simplest form of day use permitted with casual maintenance to keep the area neat and attractive.

This area is eleven miles from U. S. Highway Route 1 and is near Route 4 which enters Maine nearly at South Berwick. The area may prove to be of considerable value as a campground for Maine's visitors. Since opportunities for swimming are limited, future day use would be restricted to picnicking.

w. North and South Sugar Loaf Islands

Located off Hunniwell Point, Phippsburg, these islands contain two acres and were purchased from the Federal Government for \$2.00 in 1923. The isolated location of these islands is such that the only conceivable use is to maintain them as a sanctuary for birds.

2. *Baxter State Park Authority (total acreage 141,712 acres)*

a. Baxter State Park, Piscataquis County

Beginning in 1931 lands comprising Baxter State Park were given to the State by former Governor Percival P. Baxter. Deeds dated October 7, 1931, February 2, 1933, November 9, 1938, and January 17, 1939, cover the conditions of transfer of this acreage, part of which reads, ". . . the same to be held forever by the said State as trustee in trust for the people of Maine for state forest, public park,

and public recreational purposes, shall forever be kept in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for wild beasts and birds. . .”

The 1939 legislature abolished the former Baxter State Park Commission and delegated the duties of administering Baxter State Park to a committee or Authority comprising: the Forest Commissioner, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game and the Attorney General.

The park contains 141,712 acres and includes Mount Katahdin (elevation 5267 feet), the highest elevation in Maine; known as the most picturesque mountain east of the Rockies. Katahdin is situated approximately in the geographical center of the State and it is said to be possible, on a clear day, to see more land and water from the top of this mountain than from any other known point of land, as there are no other ranges on any side to cut off the view. Within the boundaries of this Park are numerous smaller mountains and many lakes, ponds, and streams. Katahdin is the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.

Public use is now at levels of about 15,000 with present facilities consisting of ten (10) roadside campsites and lunchgrounds, foot trails and numerous trail campsites, three (3) lodges or sporting camps and five (5) organized campgrounds containing Adirondack shelters, tent and trailer sites, tables, fireplaces and toilets.

Particular stress has been placed on vacation recreation featuring simple facilities for various forms of camping. Planning and development stresses preservation of the natural wilderness character of the region with reasonable limited accessibility for proper recreational use.

3. *University of Maine, Orono, Maine*

a. *Old Town Forest, Penobscot County*

This area of 2,085 acres of forestland was leased to the University of Maine by the Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture for administration and maintenance as a state forest. A small picnic grove was developed near the Stillwater River principally to accommodate the people of Old Town.

4. *Superintendent of Public Buildings*

a. *State House Park, Augusta, Kennebec County, twenty (20) acres*

Consisting of the State House grounds, the development on this area is along the lines of a Common or Public Garden.

5. *Governor and Executive Council*

a. *Fort Kent Blockhouse, Fort Kent, Maine*

Purchased by the Governor and Executive Council in 1891 this area is marked by a small heavily built blockhouse which stands on a slight eminence commanding a view of the nearby St. John River. It was built in 1838 during the Aroostook War when Edward Kent was Governor of Maine. Open to the public, the area is maintained by the Town of Fort Kent.

6. *Department of Health and Welfare (total acreage 17,000 acres)*

a. *Indiantownship, Washington County*

Covering an area of 17,000 acres, Indiantownship is owned by the State of Maine and held in trust for the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians who have a settlement at Pleasant Point and at Princeton. This township is in Washington County, just north of Big Lake, west of the St. Croix River. The area is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Welfare. This holding is not a recreational area. There is a small picnic ground on this tract, and facilities which include one (1) fireplace, parking space for twenty-five (25) cars, a spring for water supply, and a latrine. The Forest Commissioner has the administration of the forest management of the area and is assisted by the Department of Forestry of the University of Maine.

7. *Forestry Department*

A Forest Commissioner and Land Agent was appointed in 1891. In 1921 the Land Agent title was dropped. The Maine Forest District was created in 1909 under the administration of the Forest Commissioner for the control of forest fires in the unorganized towns plus adjacent organized towns voting to become members. In 1949 the legislature placed forest fire control for the entire state under the Forestry Department. Maine has no State forests as do many other states; however, a considerable portion of the privately owned forest lands are utilized for recreation.

The Forestry Department has built and marked trails from the principal State highways to one hundred (100) lookout towers maintained by the department on mountain peaks and high hills which are extensively used by hikers. It maintains about 256 campsites and lunchgrounds leased from private land owners for the use of the public, of which about 100 are situated on highways and secondary roads. The most of these areas are in the Maine Forestry

District or unorganized sections. These campsites, constructed on leased sites in those areas where private accommodations are lacking, are situated near pure drinking water, and contain stone fireplaces, shelters with tables, and other conveniences. The Maine State Highway Commission road map shows the location of these campsites throughout the State.

a. *Pleasant Mountain Reservation, Oxford County, twenty (20) acres*

This area was deeded to the State in April, 1939 by the Appalachian Mountain Club and is administered by the Forestry Department. There is no recreational development on this area.

b. *Public Lots*

The Forestry Department owns outright 21,643.53 acres contained in school (or public) lots scattered in the northern part of the State. In addition, 46,204 acres of school lots on plantations are administered by the Forestry Department. There are also 320,674.67 acres of school lots owned by the State on which the grass and timber have been sold. School lots generally consist of 1,000 acres per town, although there is considerable variation in size.

8. *Department of Inland Fisheries and Game*

Interest in the conservation of fish was recognized in this State as early as 1878 when a Commissioner of Fisheries was appointed. In 1899, jurisdiction was extended to game by the creation of a Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game.

Maine has a number of game preserves and wildlife sanctuaries which are neither leased nor State-owned, but are designated by the legislature. All hunting and trapping is prohibited on these areas which embrace approximately 330,109 acres throughout the State. Many opportunities exist in Maine for excellent fishing and hunting from which considerable revenue is derived by the State and by private individuals.

a. *Game Management Areas (6,020.24 acres)*

The Department began in 1946 purchasing and developing land as game management areas under the Pitman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration program, where controlled hunting and trapping is permitted. Although no provision for recreation is provided in the form of simple picnic and campsite facilities, many of these areas would be well suited to such development giving due consideration

to the primary purpose for which the areas were established. These areas are:

	Location	Acres
(1) Ruffingham Meadow	Searsmont and Montville	610
(2) Scammon Marsh	Eastbrook and Franklin	1860
(3) Great Works	Edmunds	640
(4) Madawaska Marsh	Palmyra	295
(5) Chesterville Marsh	Chesterville	3.24
(6) Jonesboro Upland Game Management	Jonesboro	712
(7) Petit Manan	Steuben	500
(8) Swan Island	Richmond	1400
		6020.24

9. *State Highway Commission*

The State Highway Commission has developed and maintains three (3) roadside picnic areas. As stated previously, the Forestry Department maintains a number of picnic grounds along some of the major highways particularly in the northern part of the State, however there was an urgent need for additional roadside picnic areas in the southern portion of the state. The 1951 legislature provided the Highway Commission with \$25,000 for the construction of additional roadside and picnic areas, roadside springs and scenic turnouts along state and state aid highways. As a result of this program, 11 areas were constructed in 1951 and about 34 more are anticipated in 1952 situated for the most part in the southern portions of the state.

10. *Semi-Public Recreational Lands*

The provision of recreational lands by semi-public agencies for public use is not extensive in Maine as in the neighboring states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. There are several semi-public organizations controlling recreation lands, for example—The Fort Western Association of Augusta, Knox Memorial Association (Montpelier) of Thomaston, etc. Complete data on these areas has not been obtained to date.

a. *Appalachian Mountain Club*

The Appalachian Mountain Club maintains Rugged Mountain Reservation in Camden, ten (10) acres in which the general public

can enjoy hiking. There are no recreational developments on this area.

b. Maine Appalachian Trail Club

The Appalachian Trail is the longest and best known foot trail in the State, comprising the first 265 miles of a 2,054 mile continuous hiking trail which traverses thirteen (13) states, running the entire length of the Appalachian highlands from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Mount Oglethorpe in Georgia. The Appalachian Trail in Maine was the last part of the total route to be undertaken and was not completed until 1935, when the work of building it was finally adopted as a Civilian Conservation Corps project. The Maine section developed and maintained by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, Inc., leads through utter wilderness and traverses a series of outstanding mountain peaks in a general southwest-northeast direction. It has been so located that comfortable accommodations can be found at intervals and convenient shelters and campsites are provided for the hiker. It is a well-marked route with many side trails to points of unusual interest.

11. Municipal Recreational Lands

An analysis of municipal parks and recreational areas is beyond the scope of this study. No complete information is available regarding the amount of recreational lands set aside for local parks and playgrounds in the many communities of the State. Data listed below indicates only 898.99 acres of municipal parks in fifteen (15) major cities and towns of the State. There are about seventy (70) other towns which provide municipal parks, but the acreages are unknown at present. Based on a standard figure of one acre of municipal park for each one hundred (100) population, it can readily be seen that there are outstanding deficiencies of local park lands in many of the communities cited. However, due to the great amount of available out-door spaces and opportunities to the scattered population centers, this apparent problem on the municipal level is not as critical as it may seem.

A PARTIAL LIST OF MUNICIPAL PARK LANDS

	Acreage		Acreage
1. Auburn	49.5	9. Hallowell	7.0
2. Augusta	21.0	10. Houlton	31.71
3. Bangor	113.0	11. Lewiston	12.50
4. Brewer	8.0	12. Old Town	67.0
5. Brunswick	10.75	13. Portland	528.53
6. Caribou	11.0	14. Rockland	11.0
7. Eastport	15.0	15. Saco	7.0
8. Fort Fairfield	6.0		

12. *Private Recreational Lands*

Maine was one of the first states to recognize and capitalize on the economic advantages of private recreational development. However, until 1922, no organized effort was made to stimulate and to publicize the private recreational developments in the State. The people of Maine now realize the importance of the recreation industry. Except for the relatively small advertising appropriation by the State, plus the energy of a comparatively few individuals who have invested their time and money in recreational enterprises, Maine's natural recreational resources are responsible for the growth of what is now conceded to be one of Maine's chief industries. Unlike most other industries, it brings entirely new money into the State and distributes it among all classes of people.

The principal recreational facilities provided by private enterprise are summarized as follows: (1) approximately 270 organized camps for boys and girls. It is estimated that nearly 44% of the parents of youngsters in camp also vacation in Maine; (2) in 1950, there were 176 licensed adult recreational camps, located primarily in the unorganized sections where sportsmen engage in hunting, fishing, and vacation activities; and there are numerous sandy beaches in inland waters which have been developed for bathing and picnicking; (3) a score of fine sandy ocean beaches have been developed between Kittery and Cape Elizabeth, including fashionable hotels, summer colonies, and individual overnight camps providing comfortable and economical living quarters for vast numbers who prefer the seashore to the inland resorts; (4) a number of canoe trips which have been worked out traversing inland waters and about which printed material is available; (5) yachting is a popular activity in certain localities, the full possibilities of this sport have been somewhat overlooked; (6) over seventy-five private golf courses are open to Maine vacationists upon payment of fee; (7) winter sports facilities are fast becoming popular with many of the communities located in a natural terrain and snow regions promoting the development of winter sports facilities, especially skiing with ski tows, open slopes and trails; (8) and there are hundreds of hotels, cabins, and tourist homes scattered throughout the State affording shelter for the vacationists of Maine.

EVALUATION OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL AREAS

It is generally true that the recreation activities of people are determined by the accessibility to facilities.

TABLE II
POPULATION DATA BY HIGHWAY ZONES OF MAJOR
PARKS

Parks	0-15 Mile Zone	15-25 Mile Zone	25-50 Mile Zone
Acadia National Park	7,220	4,399	50,685
White Mountain National Forest	2,383	4,785	43,085
Baxter State Park		5,380	3,020
Aroostook State Park	7,211	19,515	23,820
Bradbury Mt. State Park	7,259	101,347	120,748
Camden Hills State Park	33,148	7,499	130,584
Fort Knox State Park	14,202	53,628	96,532
Lake St. George State Park	4,723	14,729	153,906
Mt. Blue State Park	5,154	28,491	33,806
Reid State Park	6,686	18,360	218,487
Sebago Lake State Park	6,968	16,496	215,114

Considering population distribution, it is readily apparent that the Baxter State Park, Mount Blue State Park, the Acadia National Park and its extensions, and the White Mountain National Forest are too remote to serve the daily, Sunday, holiday or week-end recreational needs of the people in the populated section of the State. These areas, developed for specific purposes, are important adjuncts to the State-wide recreational system and serve primarily as vacation areas both to Maine residents and to out-of-state visitors. Acadia National Park is the best known area in the State and draws the largest attendance, predominantly out-of-state visitors.

It is evident that the existing State Parks form the nucleus of a State Park system. In general, these areas are well distributed in regard to the larger concentrated areas of population in the State and receive the brunt of use by Maine residents, excepting Aroostook State Park which is designated primarily for the use of Aroostook County residents.

The thirteen (13) State Memorials constitute another unit in the State Park System. Although some of these areas are of minor significance, a few of the historic forts are of special historical importance and recreational value and warrant development, adequate maintenance and operation. Several of these areas should be maintained as municipal parks.

The recreational areas of the Forestry Department and the State Highway Commission supplement the major recreational areas of the State Park Commission. Inter-agency planning should take into consideration the coordination of types of facilities and services to be provided by the several agencies concerned.

The 256 campsites and lunchgrounds under the supervision of the Maine Forest Service particularly the 113 roadside campsites and lunch-

grounds, and the three roadside areas of the State Highway Commission are of definite value in the complete State recreational plan. These roadside picnic areas or lunchgrounds situated on state highways provide a definite recreational service to the motorist. Such sites can best be developed and maintained by the State Highway Commission and integrated with the present planning for similar areas in the southern portion of the state to supplement the three (3) areas already developed and maintained by that agency.

The Forestry Department campsites and lunchgrounds situated about the lake shores, rivers and streams in the unorganized areas of the state form an integral part of the recreational plan. Such campsites and lunchgrounds in areas inaccessible by car particularly along lakes and streams as well as the sites on roads, trails and ways not maintained by other state agencies can best be developed and maintained by the Forestry Department. In several areas, particularly the Rangeley and Moosehead regions, public use has greatly exceeded available facilities. There is a definite need for state parks in these same regions to provide suitable recreational opportunities for vacationists.

The Appalachian Trail in Maine is a definite recreational asset. Maine's 265 miles of this trail lead through utter wilderness and across many of the outstanding mountains, with convenient shelters and campsites for the hiker, providing primarily vacation recreation for Maine's residents and out-of-state visitors.

The holdings of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, particularly the Moosehorn Migratory Bird Refuge, are important links in the present recreational area system as are the Game Management areas of the Department, of Inland Fisheries and Game. Such conservational areas are necessary for the protection and propagation of the fauna. Encouragement should be given to provide simple picnic areas wherever practical. The recreational aspects of hunting and fishing form an integral part of the state recreational plan and are beyond the scope of this study.

A municipal park system is indispensable to an adequate State-wide recreation program. From the standpoint of facilities, expenditures and attendance, the importance of municipal park and recreation programs bulk far greater than all other types combined. Community parks and playgrounds serve the daily recreation needs of men, women, and children and consequently should be located conveniently to potential users in cities and towns. Encouragement should be given to local municipalities to provide more adequate recreational opportunities for their residents.

Although the total acreage of recreational lands under semi-public ownership is small, this method of supplementing State owned recreational facilities should be cultivated.

A vast amount of private recreational facilities has been developed to cater to those people who are financially able to pay for these special services. As far as Maine residents are concerned, this would represent a very small per cent of its population.

STATE PARK AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

From the beginning Maine's recreational developments were initiated by private enterprise which, even today, represent the major recreational area system in the State. Years ago, many of the private forests and other areas were opened to the public. This fact is generally offered as an explanation for the lack of public interest in State Parks and forests. However, conditions had changed and the people found themselves excluded from many private areas. Then, the need for setting aside recreational areas for public use was recognized by public spirited individuals and groups whose untiring efforts, in this direction, resulted in their purchasing and donating lands to be dedicated as State and National Parks. The next step in the State's development of recreation finds the Federal Government taking an active part in acquiring lands and developing them for recreational use by the public. With the exception of purchasing a few hundred acres of land representing historic forts and sites, the State has spent very little money in acquiring lands for public recreation. The development of Maine's public recreational area systems began later than similar movements in other states. Maine has had brief experience in the State Park movement.

Immediate Objectives

The immediate objective of the State Park Commission is to administer, operate, maintain and develop the existing State Parks in the most efficient and economic manner. During the forthcoming years, the State Park Commission must assume the responsibility of full development of existing State Parks and Recreational Areas and maintenance of all facilities in first class condition. The proper maintenance of a State Park System is the best insurance against deterioration of facilities which cost thousands of dollars to develop for recreation. Lack of adequate funds for both capital improvements and operation of Maine's State Parks has retarded their progress. Attendance at the parks is below the normal expectancy, presumably due to the absence of some of the facilities which experience elsewhere indicates are necessary. The degree of satis-

faction with such parks will be reflected in the number of repeat visits, particularly by those who must travel any appreciable distance to reach the area.

None of the parks have been developed to the extent normally considered desirable.³ With an inadequate plant, parks like any other business, seldom produce maximum income. It is generally recognized that a state park system cannot be wholly self-supporting. However, it has been demonstrated that when development has been carried to the stage where adequate facilities are furnished and appealing activities are programmed so that all patrons are afforded the opportunity of a "good time," income has increased appreciably. Some parks with exceptional public appeal and located conveniently to large populations have been made to show considerable profit over annual operating expenses. Such areas contribute to the support of other worthy but less conveniently located areas in the system.

Small concession stands are operated at many of the state parks and memorials. Where the volume of park use is large enough to promote adequate sales, as at Sebago Lake, Reid and possibly Fort Knox State Parks, the State should realize sufficient income from service-operated refreshment and souvenir stands to justify their introduction. Usually the public is appreciative of this type of service. State operation of such stands usually is more profitable and satisfactory than operations by a concessionaire.

It is known that some parks could be made to approach self-support if the daily volume of mid-week visitation can be increased to more nearly equal the Sunday attendance volume. Vigorous promotion work among women's organizations, children's groups, church groups and commercial organizations, with mid-week holidays, should be successful in attracting larger numbers to the parks on week days. Scheduling special events in the early evening during mid-week is worthy of consideration at parks located close to large population centers. Mid-week attractions with appeal to vacation visitors in Maine are worthy of consideration also.

A. Recreation Programs

The prime objective of a recreation program is to assist park visitors to obtain the greatest enjoyment from the parks. For example, visitors to a historical monument are stimulated to do so by the fact that State sponsorship implies outstanding significance in State history. Unless a satisfying story of the monument is furnished, the visitor either senses

³ State Park Commission Projects, Post War Planning for the State of Maine, Maine Development Commission, 1944. P. 30-34.

inadequacy, or if an experienced traveler, realizes the shortcomings. Neither becomes a booster for the park. Obviously, a guide with special training and ability is necessary to tell a satisfying story to all age and interest groups. Similarly, the volume of patronage at recreational type parks will depend upon the facilities provided to insure all patrons a "good time," whether they be seeking active "play" type outlets or the more passive forms. With adequate leadership and working through organizations, school and church groups, boys' and girls' camps, public interest can be stimulated in such activities as nature recreation, arts and crafts, camping, music, water recreation, winter sports and other activities. At the present time, the Commission has initiated such services and plans to expand this program as appropriated funds are available.

Cursory observation leaves the impression that extensive winter use could not be expected at this time on any of the parks. Those areas that possess physical qualifications suitable for winter sports are not sufficiently accessible to large population centers to attract heavy patronage. Beginners' ski trails for local patrons are believed justifiable if they can be furnished and operated without too great cost to the State. Such slopes at Bradbury Mountain, Lake St. George and Aroostook State Parks are already in operation. Unfortunately, ski slopes generally detract from the natural beauty of park areas during summer months.

B. Public Relations

Public information service and the promotion of recreational use of State Parks are definitely linked together. At the present time, the Maine State Parks are practically unknown to the majority of the residents. The Park Commission needs the public interest, appreciation and support of the objectives and policies of their program. This can be done through well conceived public information. An appropriate publicity program (commercial establishments call it advertising) will do much to attract patronage to state parks. This is particularly pertinent as regards out-of-state visitors, many of whom are looking for just such things as are offered by state parks.

The State Park Commission should be able to obtain further assistance in publicizing their State Parks from the Maine Development Commission, the State's official agency for promoting recreation. Honest, straightforward publicity will not only help local people to find recreational enjoyment in the State Parks, but will also attract out-of-state visitors, thus promote tourist travel.

Development and Design

The immediate need is to formulate a state park program for the further development of the state parks and recreational areas in the state.

Such a plan should be based on definite objectives and should point to an ultimate long-range plan. Maine is, and always has been, a conservative state, a fact which must be weighed in the projection of proposals.

A. Planning

To develop a state park two types of planning are necessary. A narrative plan or program should be prepared outlining, in so far as possible, all the facilities which should ultimately be incorporated in the park. This narrative plan should include an outline of the operation policy contemplated. When such a program has been cleared with all persons or groups concerned, it is ready to be turned over to the park planner who then will be able to prepare the graphic plan. Approximate estimates of development costs can be prepared from the narrative plan and used in requesting appropriations.

Satisfactory master and layout planning can seldom be accomplished without considerable study based on a thorough knowledge of detailed site conditions. It also is necessary to possess an understanding of the recreational habits and needs of the visiting public. Proper planning also takes into account preservation of the area's natural values by distributing and regulating public use. It is necessary that the operation policy be keyed accordingly.

Parks seldom can be developed satisfactorily by piece-meal planning. Once piece-meal development is started, considerable courage is required to scrap expensive developments that are unsuitable. Remodeling usually is more expensive than initial construction of a similar nature. The planning of no park can be considered static; it is necessary that it be altered as changing conditions and use trends dictate.

In this connection, the State Park Commission has decided to follow the accepted principles and standards of the National Park Service in regard to the preparation of necessary property maps, basic maps, master plans, and job plans for specific development. Also, through the State Park Commission's continued cooperation with the National Park Service, considerable assistance in the planning and designing of recreational facilities can be obtained from the Service's Regional Office. This contribution usually means the furnishing of competent technical personnel, such as landscape architects, engineers and architects to prepare plans and specifications and to give technical guidance in the work in the field.

B. Design Factors

The design of an area involves four major considerations,—(1) approach roads and parking areas; (2) sanitation facilities including drink-

ing water and latrines; (3) picnicking, bathing and camping facilities including tables, fireplaces, bathhouses and tent sites; and (4) control and service facilities including checking stations, ranger stations, headquarters, garage and utility buildings, concessions, recreational buildings, play areas, amphitheaters, etc.

Study of travel habits of state park patrons has shown that a negligible number will travel more than fifty miles to visit the average park. Where estimates of possible patronage volume are furnished, they are based on the number of people living within a fifty mile travel distance of the park as furnished by the most recent census count.

Other factors such as the natural attractiveness of the area, the economical level of the population from which patronage is drawn, existence of competing recreational opportunities, etc. are also considered when making attendance estimates. However, there always can be influencing factors peculiar to any particular park or locality which are not foreseen and which may cause patronage volume to vary both above or below the normal. Usually about half of the total Sunday attendance will be in the park at one time during the afternoon. That figure will establish the capacity requirements or design load for the area. Circumstances peculiar to a particular locality can alter these figures also. It would be well to check them by actual count over a sufficient period to justify any doubts that may be felt regarding their validity, however. Casual judgment on the accuracy of this attendance trend has proven erroneous. The capacity requirements or design load for existing use on an area can be estimated to be about one-quarter of the average weekly attendance of July and August.

It is neither economical nor advisable to develop an area to meet the occasional peak load. Suitable overflow parking space is the only facility above normal capacity use that is justified for such occasions. Usually overflow can be accommodated along roadsides, turfed areas, etc.

The estimated number of auto parking spaces required is based on the average of 4.5 persons per car. Capacity of parking accommodations should allow at least nine (9) feet per car, ten (10) feet is preferable. The average driver will take up as much as twelve (12) feet per car if parking is not controlled.

Unfortunately, the capacities of recreational areas suitable for public use are limited. The picnic ground load of 40 to 60 persons per acre is generally accepted as the number of persons that the average area can accommodate repeatedly without experiencing adverse wear and destruction of the natural values which attract visitation. Usually about 40

percent of the park visitors will be bathers, 50 percent of whom may be expected to be on the beach or in the water at one time. Considering bathhouse design, 80 percent of the swimmers can be expected to use a self-service structure of which 40 percent will be women, 60 percent men. The remaining 20 percent will either wear their bathing suits to the park or will avoid using the bathhouse. A checking type bathhouse will be used by about 40 percent of the bathers.

ACQUISITION OF AREAS

The acquisition of desirable and necessary park lands is one of the fundamental functions in the development of a State Park System. The acquisition of additional State Park and recreational areas is considered as one of the prime needs of the State. All lands whether acquired by appropriation or through gift should be in fee simple and without any restriction or conditions attached which would impair their usefulness as State Parks. All proposals for acquiring additional park lands should be in accordance with the powers of and should be approved by the State Park Commission. The right to refuse lands by gift seems necessary to prevent the maintenance of property undesirable for park purposes.

The vast amount of unused natural recreation resources suitable for recreation points to the need for outlining a proposed program of acquisition of outstanding potential recreational areas without thought to their immediate development. These areas should include outstanding historic, scenic and scientific sites which should be preserved for public use by present as well as future generations. Early acquisition of such areas will safeguard the State's natural recreational resources and constitute a permanent appeal to residents and out-of-state visitors and thus guarantee Maine's future recreation business. The intensive development of property by private enterprise points to the need of immediate action by the State particularly to acquire water frontage accessible to populated areas. Likewise, additional recreational areas should be acquired to provide for recreational needs of vacationists in sparsely settled scenic areas.

A great many areas exist where major recreational development is not practical at the present time, yet considerable scenic attraction exists with space suitable for greater development than the ordinary roadside picnic areas. Areas of this type should be held with limited development and maintenance. These areas may ultimately be expanded to major public use areas when conditions warrant intensive development.

STATE PARK AND RECREATIONAL AREA PROPOSALS

Several reports, studies and surveys have been made of potential sites for state parks and recreational areas. A report of the Recess Committee to the 86th Legislature on "Natural Beauty and Historic Spots" recommended park areas with the following features:

1. Salt water frontage and coastal islands.
2. Lake areas, as Moosehead, Sebago and Rangeley.
3. Mountain areas, as Katahdin and Grafton Notch.
4. Virgin forest areas, as Cathedral Pines.
5. Stream areas, as Salmon Falls and Screw Auger Falls.
6. Areas chiefly valuable as viewpoints, as Eustis Ridge.

A preliminary plan for a **Proposed Major Park System in Maine** was presented in the Maine State Planning Board Report of 1935. Pending more detailed studies, those proposals included ten (10) major areas and twenty-five (25) minor areas. The major park areas proposed in 1935 were as follows:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Baxter State Park | 6. Mt. Agamenticus |
| 2. Acadia National Park | 7. Old Orchard Beach |
| 3. Grand Lake Stream | 8. Popham Beach |
| 4. Humphrey | 9. Roque Bluffs |
| 5. Carrabasset | 10. Passamaquoddy Bay |

The 1939 **Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study** recommended immediate action in the acquisition of salt water frontage accessible to populated areas citing two possible seashore park sites which should be in public ownership,—Popham Beach and Crescent Beach. A list of potential areas also was suggested by that study which included areas of outstanding scenic value located in specific regions accessible to large centers of populations where additional facilities would be needed. These were as follows:

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| 1. <u>Seacoast Region</u>
(a) Higgins Beach area
(b) Boothbay Harbor area | 3. <u>Eastern Region</u>
(a) Beddington area
(b) Mt. Waldo area |
| 2. <u>Southwestern Region</u>
(a) Blackstrap area
(b) Limerick area
(c) Ossipee area
(d) Agementicus Mountain area
(e) Buxton area | 4. <u>North Central Region</u>
(a) Saddleback Mountain area |

A Report of the Recess Committee to the 90th Legislature "on the Feasibility of Acquiring Property for the Establishment of Public Bath-

ing Beaches and for Encouraging the Development of the Shores of the Lakes and Streams of the State” placed further emphasis upon the need of establishing publicly owned salt water beaches particularly Popham Beach and Crescent Beach, as well as for additional fresh water facilities.

The State Park Commission presented detailed proposals for acquisition and further development of state parks and recreational areas summarized in the 1944 report of Post War Planning for the State of Maine.⁴ The proposed state park acquisitions were as follows:

1. Camden Hills Demonstration Area
2. Popham Beach State Park Proposal
3. Crescent Beach State Park Proposal
4. Salmon Falls State Park Proposal
5. Douglas Hill State Park Proposal

In view of present knowledge a revised partial list of areas is suggested as potential State Park and Recreational sites, pending further investigation. Included in the listing are outstanding areas accessible to large centers of the State’s population where extensive facilities would be needed, as well as areas of outstanding scenic values worthy of early acquisition in more sparsely settled regions. These are:

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| 1. Kennebunk Beach region | 6. Bigelow Mountain region |
| 2. Livermore region | 7. Moxie Falls and The Forks region |
| 3. Belgrade Lakes region | 8. Moosehead Lake region |
| 4. Rangeley Lakes region | 9. Boarstone Mt. and Onawa Lake region |
| 5. Screw Auger Falls and Grafton Notch region | 10. De Boulie Lake region |

Analysis of recommendations for State Park and Recreational area locations often brings to light alternate proposals which offer far more satisfactory and workable solutions to serve the needs of a particular region than can be obtained under the original suggestion. The type and location of the land best suited for the state park or recreational area development is the influencing factor within the specific region, since the regional need for such facilities remains relatively constant.

As previously pointed out, the problem of acquisition of suitable areas accessible to large centers of the State’s population where extensive facilities would be needed is made very difficult by the early and steady growth of private ownership. Two areas, Salmon Falls in Buxton and Vaughan Woods in Berwick, have been acquired by the State for park and recreational purposes and are being held for development in the near future.

The acquisition of areas of outstanding scenic values in more sparsely settled regions appears to be less difficult in view of the nature of the

⁴ Ibid p. 30-34.

land ownership. In most instances private development within those areas is based on a lease. It is conceivable, in view of the public interests as well as those of the landowners, that satisfactory state park sites can be established in those regions.

SUMMARY

Maine has been exceptionally fortunate in being richly endowed by nature with the necessary recreation resources: large wooded areas studded with clear blue lakes and a rolling terrain, a long varied coastline, a stimulating climate and a wealth of flora and fauna.

The largest single use of land in Maine is for the production of wood products representing eighty-four (84) percent of the total land area of the State. About ninety-nine (99) percent of this forestland area is privately owned. The total public lands available for recreational use in Maine amount to slightly over one (1.4) percent of the total land area of the state. Federally owned lands represent thirty-nine (39.4) percent of the total lands (284,829 acres) available for recreation while state owned areas amount to sixty (60.2) percent.

The existing State Parks of Maine form the nucleus of a State Park system. In general, these areas are well distributed in regard to the larger concentrated areas of population in the state and receive the brunt of use by Maine residents. The immediate objective of the State Park Commission is to administer, operate, maintain and develop the full recreational potentials of the existing State Park areas. None of the Parks have been developed to the extent considered desirable.

It is generally recognized that a state park system cannot be wholly self-supporting. However, it has been demonstrated that when development has been carried to the stage where adequate facilities are furnished income has increased appreciably. Some parks with exceptional public appeal and located conveniently to large populations have been made to show a profit over annual operating expenses. Such areas contribute to the support of other worthy but less conveniently located areas of the system.

The acquisition of desirable and necessary park lands is one of the fundamental functions in the development of a State Park system. The vast amount of unused natural resources suitable for recreation points to the need for outlining a proposed program of acquisition of outstanding potential recreational areas without thought to their immediate development. The task in Maine is not a problem of finding recreational areas, but the selection and acquisition of suitable areas which should be included in the State's recreational plan.